



**TESTIMONY ON HB 672 – Rep. William Glaser**  
**House Education**  
**February 19, 2007**

Chairman Jore and members of the committee, for the record, I am Pete Carparelli,  
Executive Director of the Montana Quality Education Coalition.

**I appear as a proponent of HB 672 sponsored by Representative Glaser.**

As you know, Montana Quality Education Coalition seeks adequate stable on-going funding for public K – 12 schools as defined in 20-9-309 MCA passed by the MT Legislature in 2005 and as assured by the Montana Constitution. In previous testimony I have shared with you the goals of MQEC and its approach to proposed legislation related to the funding of Montana's public elementary and secondary schools. Although I will not repeat that message again today, I will submit it as part of my written testimony.

MQEC is evaluating legislation proposed during the 2007 Legislature, and will support such legislation that adequately addresses one or more of the requirements of 20-9-309 MCA and meets the state's constitutional obligation to adequately fund our public K-12 school system. It has also provided information in the form of the report, Estimating the Cost of an Adequate Education in Montana, to assist the Legislative and Executive branches in their considerations of proposed legislation dealing with Montana's public elementary and secondary schools.

MQEC honors the Court's recognition of the legislature's right to phase in any remedy over time, and MQEC will support legislation as part of a phase-in remedy that explicitly prescribes a cost-based approach and leads to a defined funding goal over a specified period of time.

MQEC will oppose legislation that is not consistent with 20-9-309 MCA and the Court's decision.

Sometimes something comes across one's path that is uncomplicated and straightforward and actually looks like it is a good thing. Experience teaches you to look a little further, a little deeper, for a hidden threat or for a surprise that might not be good for you.

Sometimes when we see something good and simple, we want to make it better. We want to embellish it, and maybe in the process we make it more complex. Today, however, it appears that Representative Glaser has fashioned one of those simple, straightforward pieces of legislations that is good as it stands. No, it doesn't provide benefit for every school district. It doesn't answer every school facility construction challenge. It does, however, provide one more tool by which local communities can address the challenge of big-ticket, school construction finance.

HB 672 doesn't create winners and losers. It doesn't pit one group against another for limited resources. It just plainly creates opportunity for those who are looking for solutions.

We think Representative Glaser has done nice work on HB 672. We urge "do pass" of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon. Thank you, Rep. Glaser for bringing HB 672 to the Legislature.